

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DPW-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9346

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION: EXECUTION OF PRP PRISONERS

REF: (A) SEOUL 2337; (B) SEOUL 2371

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF PRP PRISONER EXECUTION HAS CONSISTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF STRAIGHT REPORTING. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS IN GOVERNMENT SEOUL SINMUN WHICH EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT CASE WAS CLOSED. UNLIKE OTHER PAPERS, WHICH REPORTED THAT PRISONER TO YE-CHONG HAD CALLED FOR UNION OF KOREA UNDER COMMUNIST RULE, APRIL 10 TONGA ILBO REPORTED ONLY THAT HIS LAST WORDS WERE TO HOPE KOREA BE UNITED, WITHOUT MENTION OF COMMUNIST RULE. PRESS QUOTES OFFICIAL OF EMERGENCY MILITARY COURT AS SOURCE OF DETAILS ON EXECUTION.

2. FOLLOWING ARE NAMES EIGHT PERSONS EXECUTED AS REPORTED BY MEDIA:

TO YE-CHONG, 51, PRESIDENT, SAMHWA CONSTRUCTION CO.

HA CHAE-WAN, 43, UNEMPLOYED

SO TO-WON, 52, UNEMPLOYED

SONG SANG-CHIN, 47, BEE KEEPER

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YI SU-PYONG, 37, JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

U HONG-SON, 45, DIRECTOR, GOLDEN STAMP CO.
KIM YONG-WON, 40, GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
YO CHONG-NAM, 30, UNEMPLOYED

3. TONGA ILBO REPORTED STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S
EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER "LIGHTNING ACTION" IN PRP
CASE. TONGA ILBO ALSO QUOTES SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT
SINCE U.S. DID NOT KNOW IN ADVANCE OF EXECUTION THERE
WAS NO ATTEMPT TO STOP THE ACTION. OTHER PAPERS MADE
NO REFERENCE TO DEPT STATEMENT.

4. AMERICAN MISSIONARY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT LOCAL
EDITORS AND CHIEF EDITORIAL WRITERS WERE CALLED
TO BLUE HOUSE APRIL 9 AND BRIEFED ON NEW, MORE
RESTRICTIVE GUIDELINES ON COVERAGE NATIONAL NEWS.
BRIEFING REPORTEDLY MENTIONED PRP EXECUTION AND
STRESSED INTERNAL SECURITY, SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT
MEASURES, AND ATTACKED CRITICISM TO FOREIGNERS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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